



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 4, 2019

RE: 2019-01-169

Ms. Emma Best  
c/o MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 68288  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Email: [68288-92516552@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:68288-92516552@requests.muckrock.com)

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Ms. Best:

This is the Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated January 30, 2019. You sought:

*"Copies of emails, memos, letters, reports, statistics and other records mentioning or describing the 2018–19 United States federal government shutdown (2018 December 22 - 2019 January 25) on the processing of FOIA requests or handling of FOIA-related litigation, as well as on other public transparency, disclosure or declassification programs."*

There are no fees assessed at this time since allowable charges fell below \$25.

Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552. A review was conducted on one responsive document totaling 13 pages, and sections of 12 pages will be withheld pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA as described below.

**FOIA Exemption 6** exempts from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

Since Treasury's partial denial response constitutes an adverse action, you have the right to appeal this determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and

the agency's decision. Your appeal must be in writing, signed by you or your representative, and should contain the rationale for your appeal. Please also cite the FOIA reference number noted above. Your appeal should be addressed to:

Ryan Law, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privacy, Transparency and Records  
FOIA Appeal  
FOIA and Transparency  
Privacy, Transparency, and Records  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

If you submit your appeal by mail, clearly mark the letter and the envelope with the words "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within **90 days** from the date of this letter.

If you would like to discuss this response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact Paul Levitan, the FOIA Public Liaison, for assistance via email at [FOIAPL@treasury.gov](mailto:FOIAPL@treasury.gov), or via phone at (202) 622-8098.

A FOIA Public Liaison is a supervisory official to whom FOIA requesters can raise questions or concerns about the agency's FOIA process. FOIA Public Liaisons can explain agency records, suggest agency offices that may have responsive records, provide an estimated date of completion, and discuss how to reformulate and/or reduce the scope of requests in order to minimize fees and expedite processing time.

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) also mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you wish to contact OGIS, you may contact the agency directly at the following address, emails, fax or telephone numbers:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Toll free: 1-877-684-6448  
Fax: 202-741-5769

Please note that contacting any agency official (including the FOIA analyst, FOIA Requester Service Center, FOIA Public Liaison) and/or OGIS is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90-day appeal clock.

If additional questions arise concerning this action, please contact Scott Longenhagen at (202)

622-2234; or via email at FOIA@treasury.gov. Please reference 2019-01-169.

Sincerely,

Paul Levitan  
Director, FOIA & Transparency

Enclosures  
Copy of original FOIA request  
Responsive documents (13 pages)